β_2

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functional parts to the paint-finished product after the strippable paint coating step.

30. (new) A method of claim 27, wherein said step of preliminarily drying said strippable paint uses infrared irradiation drying and said step of non-preliminarily drying said product uses hot air drying.

- 31. (new) The method of claim 27, further including the step of stabilizing the strippable paint after it is coated on said product and prior to said preliminary drying step.
- 32. (new) The method of claim 31, wherein said stabilizing step is performed at room temperature.
- 33. (new) The method of claim 27, wherein said preliminary and non-preliminary drying steps are performed at elevated temperatures.
- 34. (new) Apparatus for forming a protective film on a surface of a large-sized product finished with a sprayed coating by applying a strippable paint to a surface of the sprayed coating, the apparatus comprising:

pretreatment means for washing and dehydrating the surface of the sprayed coating; means for applying strippable paint to said product;

means for preliminarily drying the strippable paint applied to said product; and means for non-preliminarily drying said product after it has been preliminarily dried.

- 35. (new) Apparatus for forming a protective film on a large paint-finished product according to claim 34, further comprising an assembly booth for mounting an engine and functional parts to the paint-finished product prior to said strippable paint coating step.
- 36. (new Apparatus for forming a protective film on a large paint-finished product according to claim 34, further including an assembly booth for mounting an engine and functional parts to the paint-finished product after the strippable paint coating step.

IN THE ABSTRACT:

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Line 2, change a machine to -- apparatus --;
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line 5, after "is" insert -- conventionally --;

line 6, change "and will be" to --for a period of time before it is --;

line 11, change "certainly" to --reliably --;

line 16, before the period insert -- according to the invention --;